SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS
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DEC.
NO. 136
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BAT MAN
"CHALLENGE of the JOKER!"
IT'S THE JOKER ON HIS SKY SLED! HE'S TRAPPING US IN A RING OF FIRE!

THE $10,000 CHALLENGE ONLY JOE WEIDER DARES TO MAKE!

MY GUARANTEE! Use my system for training and you will gain twice as much muscle and triple your power in less than **Half The Time** it would take if you followed any other method.

"The Muscle Builder"
"Trainer of The Champions"

"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

CLANCY ROSS, world's best developed man, says: "You can be a mountain of mighty muscles — with power oozing out of every pore in your power-packed, jet-charged body! Do what I did — what thousands of other Herculean Weider-trained champions did — follow Weider as your leader — mail that coupon for **your FREE TRIAL COURSE TODAY!**

CLANCY ROSS: Mass of power-laden muscles — mighty 20-inch arms, 50-inch chest, shoulders of iron a yard wide!

ONLY 7 SHORT WEEKS TO THAT DYNAMIC, RUGGED HE-MAN BODY YOU ALWAYS WANTED

ADD 3 INCHES OF STEEL-LIKE MUSCLES TO YOUR ARMS...
4 "POWER PACKED" INCHES OF MUSCLES TO YOUR CHEST!

Says JOE WEIDER, **"The Muscle Builder"** and **"Trainer of the Champions"**

IN half the time, with twice the ease, in the privacy of your own room, in just a few minutes daily, I will, through my TRIPLE-PROGRESSION COURSE, slap inches of steel muscles to your pipe-stem arms, pack your chest with power and size, give you life-guard shoulders, dynamic, speedy athletic legs — add Jet-Charged strength to every muscle in your body. I don't care if you're short or tall, skinny or fat, office-worker, laborer, school-boy, or businessman, I must make a new virile he-man out of you, and also . . . help build "inner strength" that will give you that virile look, that women admire and men envy. Here's what I did for Clancy Ross, one of the many thousands of weaklings I turned into He-Men.

A-C-T-I-O-N

IS THE KEY TO STRENGTH! MAKE YOUR FIRST HE-MAN DECISION TO-DAY! Rush in this coupon for your free trial course. You have nothing to lose but your weakness.

Don't miss this once-in-a lifetime opportunity

LET ME PROVE TO YOU, AT MY OWN EXPENSE, EVERYTHING I SAY CAN BE DONE!

FREE MUSCLE BUILDING TRIAL OFFER. Fill out coupon and mail to me. I'll rush you my GIANT 48 page course, filled with exercises, training secrets, Heroic photos of mighty champions and private advice on how you can become a muscle star fast! This sensational offer is good only to males between 13 and 65 in normal good health.

NOTHING TO BUY! YES, THAT'S RIGHT!

AMAZING FREE TRIAL OFFER

JOE WEIDER **Dept. 80-120A**
603 Palisade Avenue, Union City, N. J.

Shoot the works, Joe! Rush me my **FREE** INTRODUCTORY POWER-PACKED, MUSCLE-BUILDING COURSE. (I enclose only 25¢ to cover cost of handling and mailing.) I am under no obligation.

NAME ..... AGE .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... ZONE ..... STATE .....

In Canada: Mail to JOE WEIDER, 4466 Colonial Ave. Montreal, Quebec

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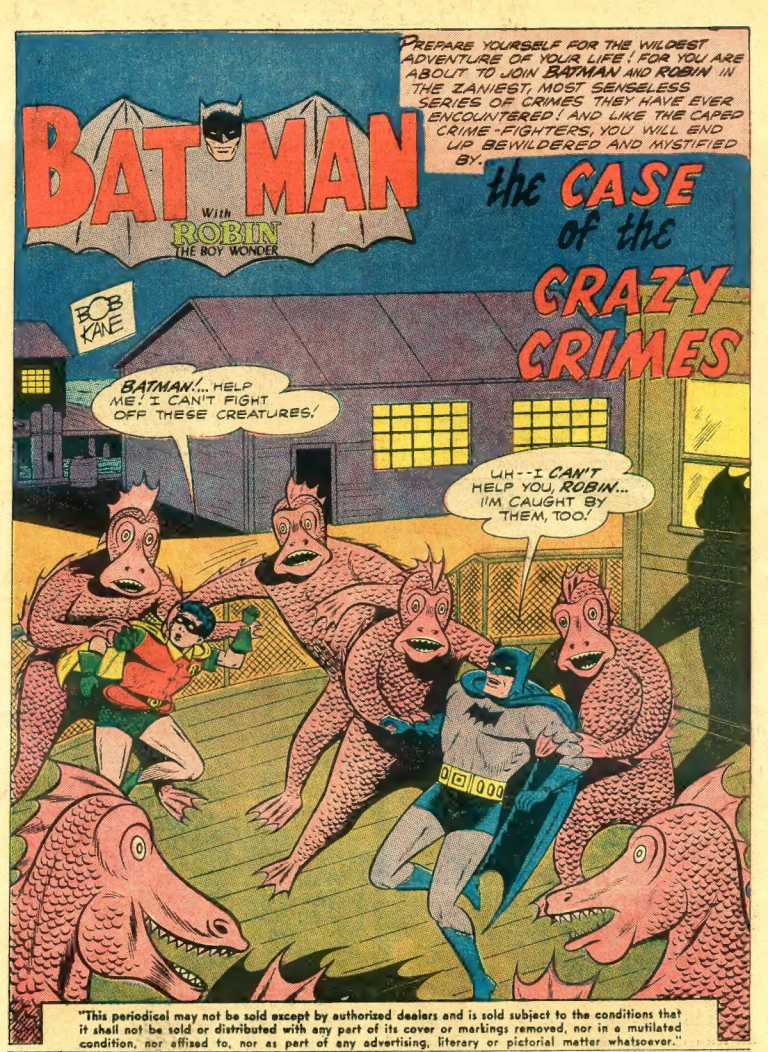
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE WILDEST ADVENTURE OF YOUR LIFE! FOR YOU ARE ABOUT TO JOIN BATMAN AND ROBIN IN THE ZANIEST, MOST SENSELESS SERIES OF CRIMES THEY HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED! AND LIKE THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS, YOU WILL END UP BEWILDERED AND MYSTIFIED BY...
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
the CASE of the CRAZY CRIMES
BOB KANE
BATMAN!... HELP ME! I CAN'T FIGHT OFF THESE CREATURES!
UH--I CAN'T HELP YOU, ROBIN... I'M CAUGHT BY THEM, TOO!

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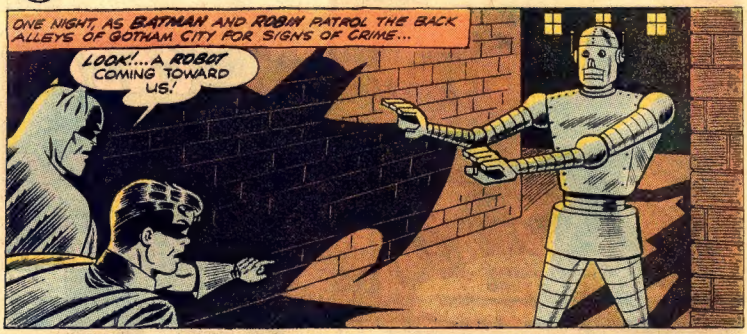
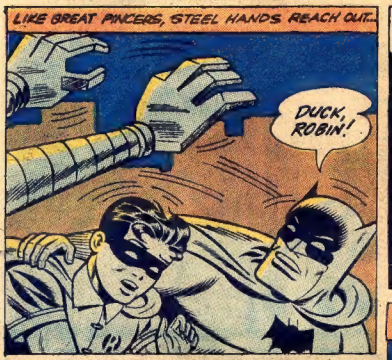
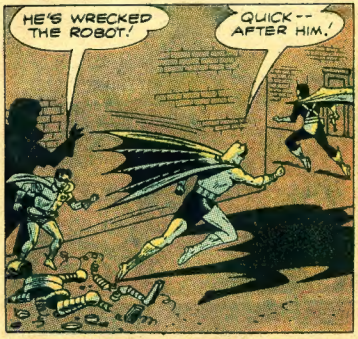

ONE NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN PATROL THE BACK ALLEYS OF GOTHAM CITY FOR SIGNS OF CRIME...
LOOK!... A ROBOT COMING TOWARD US!

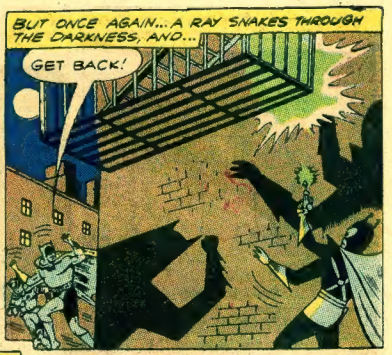

LIKE GREAT PINCERS, STEEL HANDS REACH OUT...
DUCK, ROBIN!

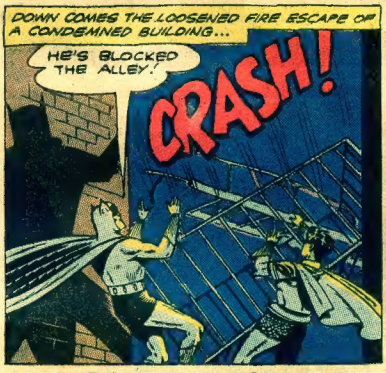
WAIT... YOU-DO-NOT-UNDERSTAND... I-MEAN-YOU-NO-HARM... I-CAME-TO-WARN-YOU-OF... MR. X.!
MR. X.?

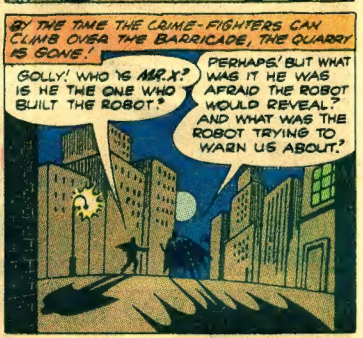
SO!... YOU WOULD BETRAY MY SECRET TO BATMAN AND ROBIN, EH?

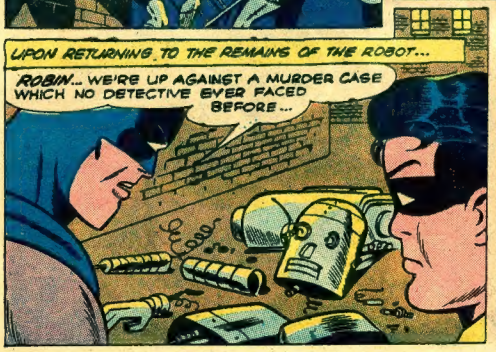
ABRUPTLY, AN EERIE RAY PULSES FROM MR. X'S BIZARRE WEAPON, AND...
TRAITOR!... YOU'LL NEVER SPEAK AGAIN!


HE'S WRECKED THE ROBOT!
QUICK -- AFTER HIM!


BUT ONCE AGAIN... A RAY SNAKES THROUGH THE DARKNESS, AND...
GET BACK!

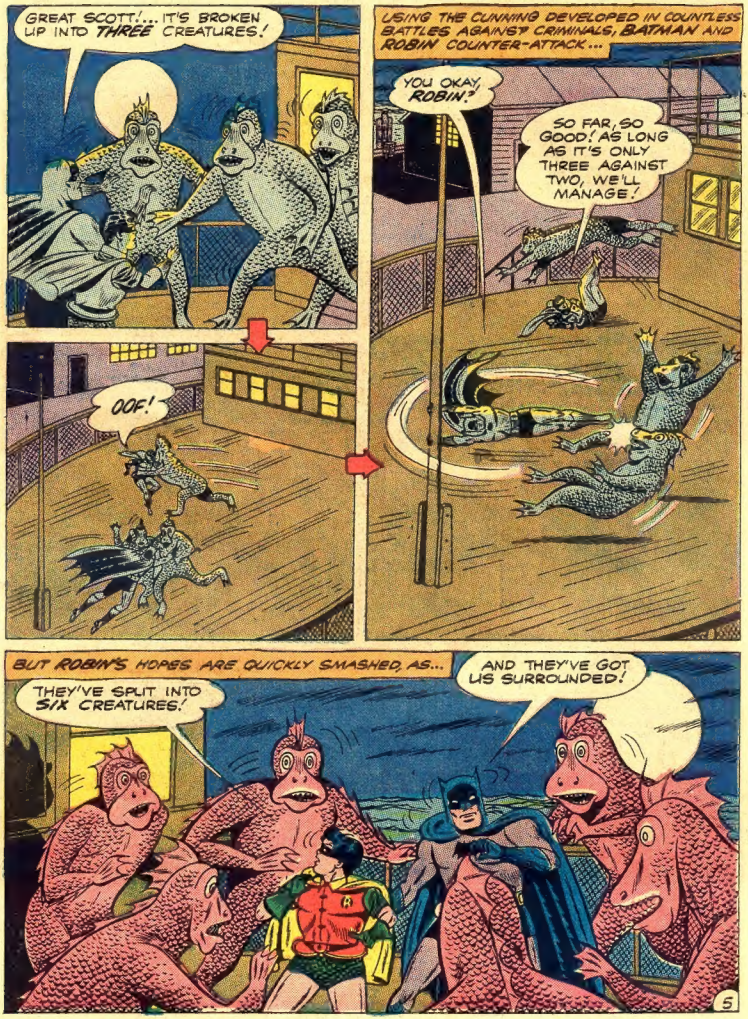

DOWN COMES THE LOOSENED FIRE ESCAPE OF A CONDEMNED BUILDING...
HE'S BLOCKED THE ALLEY!
CRASH!

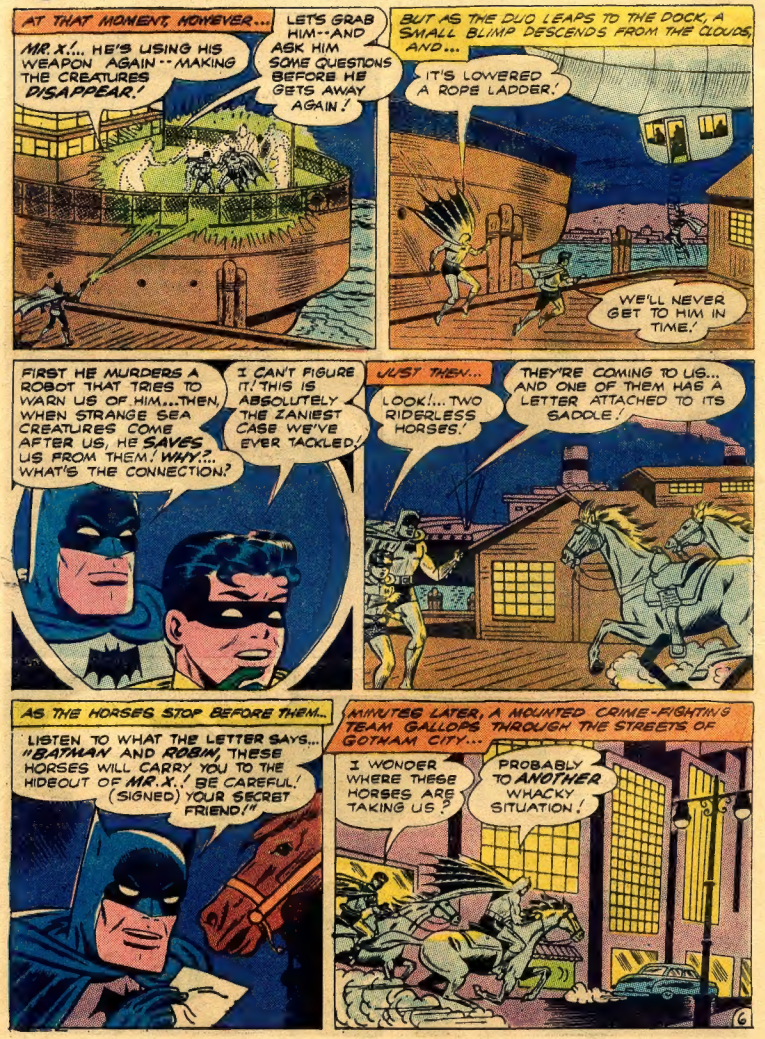

BY THE TIME THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CAN CLIMB OVER THE BARRICADE, THE QUARRY IS GONE!
GOLLY! WHO IS MR. X? IS HE THE ONE WHO BUILT THE ROBOT?
PERHAPS! BUT WHAT WAS IT HE WAS AFRAID THE ROBOT WOULD REVEAL? AND WHAT WAS THE ROBOT TRYING TO WARN US ABOUT?


UPON RETURNING TO THE REMAINS OF THE ROBOT...
ROBIN... WE'RE UP AGAINST A MURDER CASE WHICH NO DETECTIVE EVER FACED BEFORE...

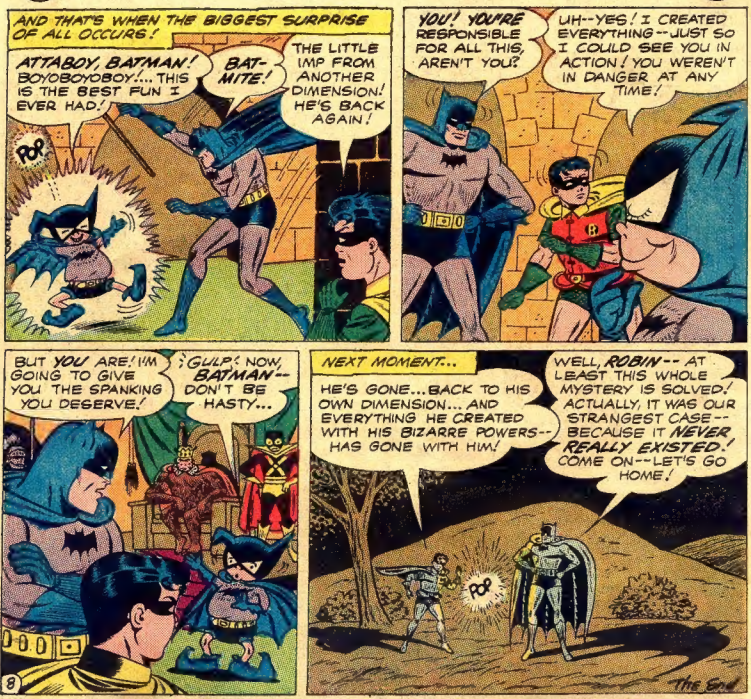
...WE'VE GOT TO SOLVE THE MURDER OF A ROBOT!

HMM... WHAT'S THIS BIT OF PAPER? IT'S GOT SOME WRITING ON IT!
"S.S. GOTHAM CITY"... THAT'S THE NAME OF THE SIGHT-SEEING BOAT DOCKED AT PIER 15 FOR REPAIRS!
MR. X. MUST HAVE SOME INTEREST IN THAT BOAT! LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT JUST WHAT!
LATER, AS THEY BOARD THE CRAFT...
THE BOAT'S DESERTED... NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT!
ABRUPTLY...
HOLY SMOKE!... W-WHAT'S THAT?
SOME KIND OF SEA CREATURE!
AS THE GIANT BEAST SPRINGS FORTH, BATMAN SWINGS HIS KNOTTED FIST--AND AN INCREDIBLE THING HAPPENS...
WHAT--? IT'S SPLITTING!
4


GREAT SCOTT!... IT'S BROKEN UP INTO THREE CREATURES!
OOF!
USING THE CUNNING DEVELOPED IN COUNTLESS BATTLES AGAINST CRIMINALS, BATMAN AND ROBIN COUNTER-ATTACK...
YOU OKAY, ROBIN?
SO FAR, SO GOOD! AS LONG AS IT'S ONLY THREE AGAINST TWO, WE'LL MANAGE!
BUT ROBIN'S HOPES ARE QUICKLY SMASHED, AS...
THEY'VE SPLIT INTO SIX CREATURES!
AND THEY'VE GOT US SURROUNDED!


AT THAT MOMENT, HOWEVER...
MR. X!... HE'S USING HIS WEAPON AGAIN -- MAKING THE CREATURES DISAPPEAR!
LET'S GRAB HIM--AND ASK HIM SOME QUESTIONS BEFORE HE GETS AWAY AGAIN!
BUT AS THE DUO LEAPS TO THE DOCK, A SMALL BLIMP DESCENDS FROM THE CLOUDS, AND...
IT'S LOWERED A ROPE LADDER!
WE'LL NEVER GET TO HIM IN TIME!
FIRST HE MURDERS A ROBOT THAT TRIES TO WARN US OF HIM...THEN, WHEN STRANGE SEA CREATURES COME AFTER US, HE SAVES US FROM THEM! WHY?... WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?
I CAN'T FIGURE IT! THIS IS ABSOLUTELY THE ZANIEST CASE WE'VE EVER TACKLED!
JUST THEN...
LOOK!... TWO RIDERLESS HORSES!
THEY'RE COMING TO US... AND ONE OF THEM HAS A LETTER ATTACHED TO ITS SADDLE!
AS THE HORSES STOP BEFORE THEM...
LISTEN TO WHAT THE LETTER SAYS... "BATMAN AND ROBIN, THESE HORSES WILL CARRY YOU TO THE HIDEOUT OF MR. X.! BE CAREFUL! (SIGNED) YOUR SECRET FRIEND!"
MINUTES LATER, A MOUNTED CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM GALLOPS THROUGH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY...
I WONDER WHERE THESE HORSES ARE TAKING US?
PROBABLY TO ANOTHER WHACKY SITUATION!

SHORTLY...
A CASTLE? I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS A CASTLE IN THIS SECTION!
NEITHER DID I! THIS CASE IS FULL OF SURPRISES!
AS THE MOUNTS GALLOP INTO A COURTYARD, STILL ANOTHER SURPRISE AWAITS THEM...
HOLY MACKEREL!... A GORILLA -- WEARING A CROWN -- AND SITTING ON A THRONE AS IF HE WERE KING OF ALL GORILLAS!
AND MR. X. IS WITH HIM! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
IN ANSWER, A GORILLA LUMBERS FORWARD AND HANDS BATMAN A SWORD...
F-FOR SOME REASON, I'VE BEEN CHALLENGED TO A DUEL!
BUT AS THE SHAGGY DUELIST RUSHES AT THE BATMAN...
THIS LANCE MAKES A GOOD VAULTING POLE!
NO SOONER DOES THE MATCH BEGIN THAN...
MY SWORD!... THE GORILLA HIT IT WITH SUCH FORCE -- IT'S BROKEN OFF AT THE HILT!
OOOOG


AND THAT'S WHEN THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF ALL OCCURS!
ATTABOY, BATMAN! BOY-OBOY-OBOY!... THIS IS THE BEST FUN I EVER HAD!
BAT-MITE!
THE LITTLE IMP FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION! HE'S BACK AGAIN!
POP
YOU! YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS, AREN'T YOU?
UH--YES! I CREATED EVERYTHING--JUST SO I COULD SEE YOU IN ACTION! YOU WEREN'T IN DANGER AT ANY TIME!
BUT YOU ARE! I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE SPANKING YOU DESERVE!
GULP! NOW, BATMAN--DON'T BE HASTY...
NEXT MOMENT...
HE'S GONE...BACK TO HIS OWN DIMENSION... AND EVERYTHING HE CREATED WITH HIS BIZARRE POWERS--HAS GONE WITH HIM!
WELL, ROBIN--AT LEAST THIS WHOLE MYSTERY IS SOLVED! ACTUALLY, IT WAS OUR STRANGEST CASE--BECAUSE IT NEVER REALLY EXISTED! COME ON--LET'S GO HOME!
POP
THE END
8

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BATMAN and ROBIN MEET A HUMAN TOP! The Doomed Batwoman!
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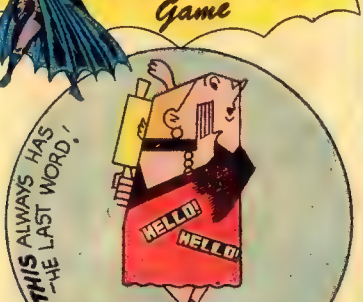
CAPTIVE of the SPACE GLOBES!
ON SALE EVERYWHERE!

the BATMAN WHIRLY-WORD Game

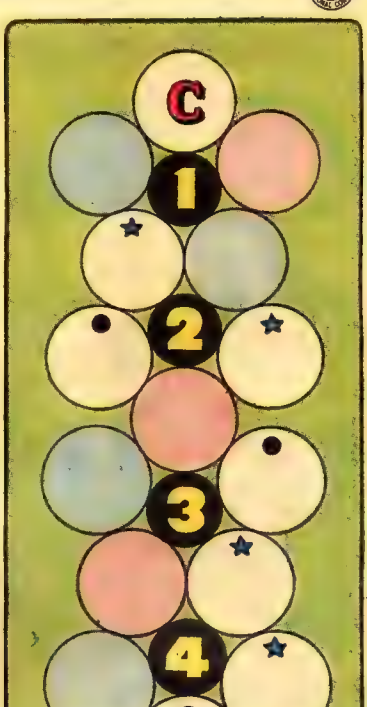


Cartoon Clue

Scrambled Words

WORD 1.	WORD 2.
MALCE	NEDMO
WORD 3.	WORD 4.
CRANO	HOPEC

Final Goal

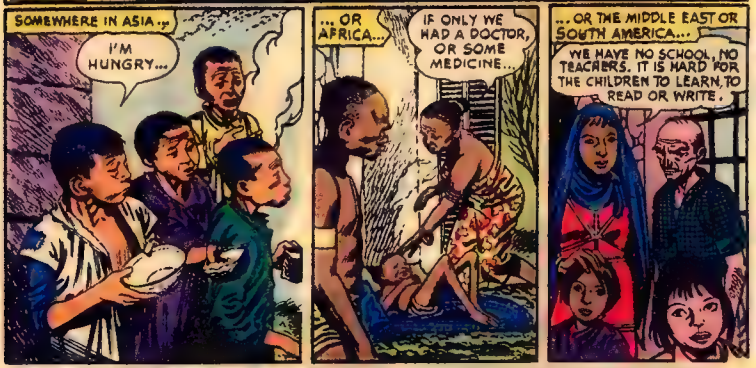


Directions: FIRST ***UNSCRAMBLE*** THE 4 SETS OF SCRAMBLED LETTERS, MAKING A ***FIVE-LETTER WORD*** OF EACH SCRAMBLE. THEN PRINT EACH WORD, A LETTER IN EACH CIRCLE AROUND EACH OF THE 4 NUMBERS, ***CLOCKWISE*** ..... THE ***INITIAL LETTER*** FOR ***WORD NUMBER ONE*** STARTS YOU OFF. THE ***3 DOTS*** INDICATE WHERE THE OTHER THREE WORDS BEGIN. ***THIS*** COMPLETED, YOUR ***FINAL GOAL*** (USING THE FOUR LETTERS YOU HAVE PRINTED ON THE ***4 STARRED CIRCLES***) IS TO SPELL THE FOUR-LETTER WORD SUGGESTED BY THE CARTOON CLUE! CAN YOU DO IT?

THE ANSWER 1-CAMEL 2-DEMON 3-ACORN 4-EPOCH — Echo

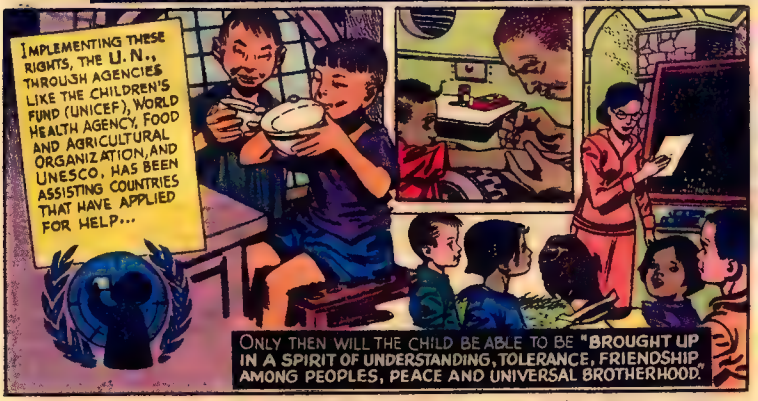
"CHILDREN of TOMORROW!"

CELEBRATING UNITED NATIONS DAY, OCTOBER 24th


SOMEWHERE IN ASIA...
I'M HUNGRY...
...OR AFRICA...
IF ONLY WE HAD A DOCTOR, OR SOME MEDICINE...
...OR THE MIDDLE EAST OR SOUTH AMERICA...
WE HAVE NO SCHOOL, NO TEACHERS. IT IS HARD FOR THE CHILDREN TO LEARN, TO READ OR WRITE.

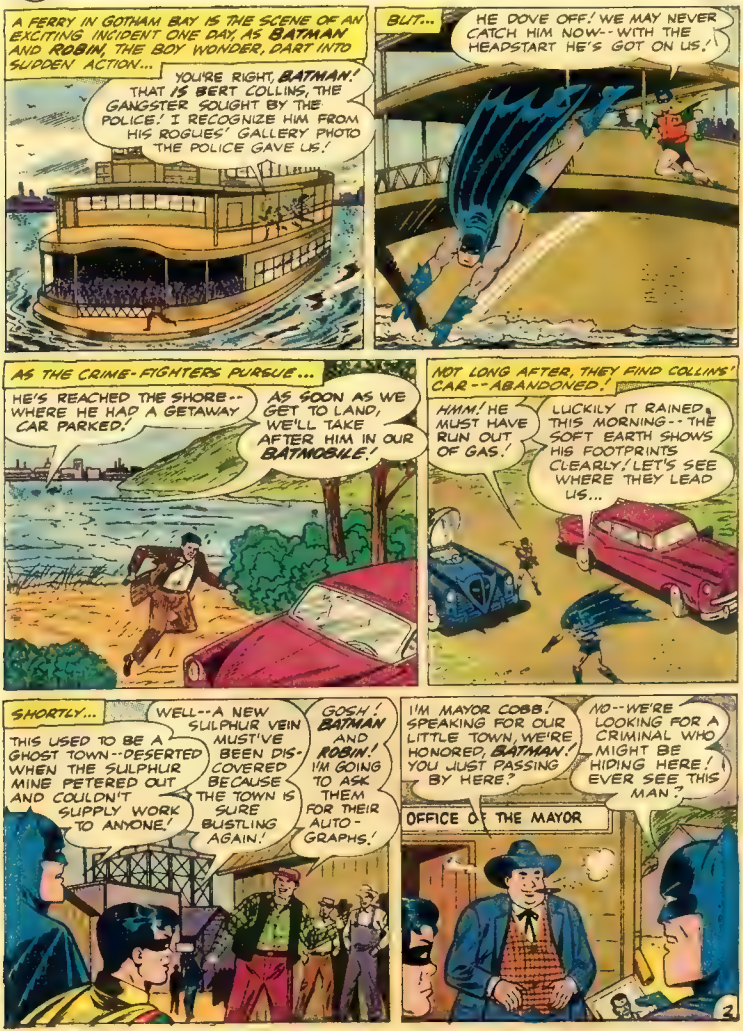
AWARE OF THESE SUB-STANDARD CONDITIONS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADOPTED THE *DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD*, WHICH STATES, AMONG OTHER PRINCIPLES, THAT...

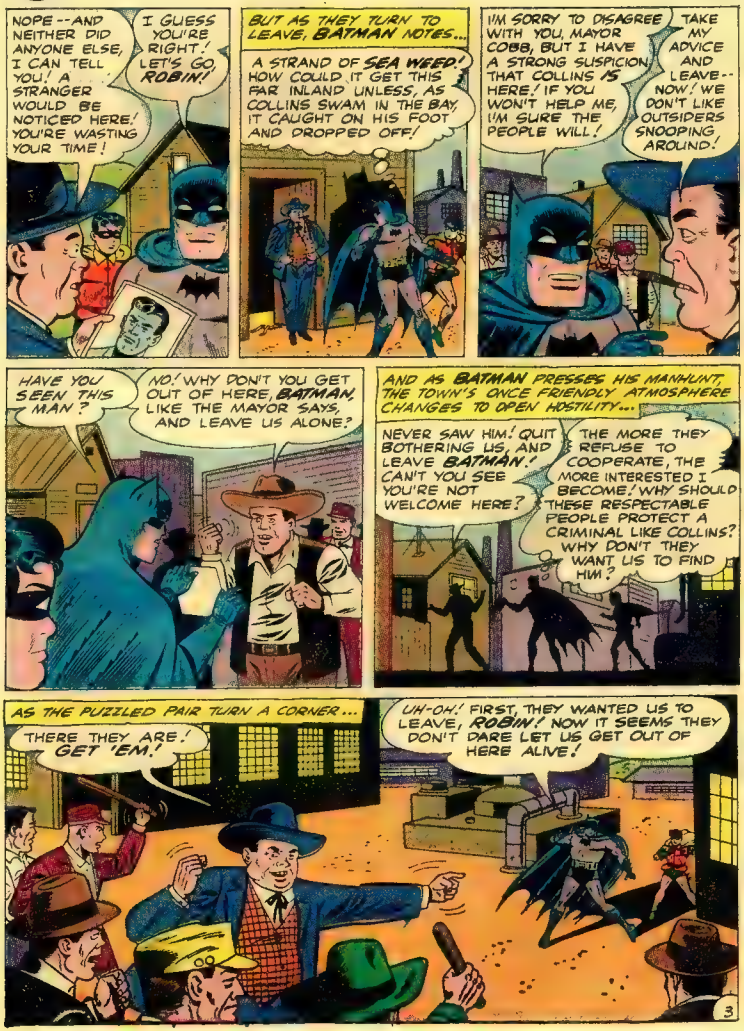
"THE CHILD SHALL ENJOY SPECIAL PROTECTION, AND SHALL BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES, BY LAW AND BY OTHER MEANS, TO ENABLE HIM TO DEVELOP PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, MORALLY, SPIRITUALLY AND SOCIALLY IN A HEALTHY AND NORMAL MANNER AND IN CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM AND DIGNITY."

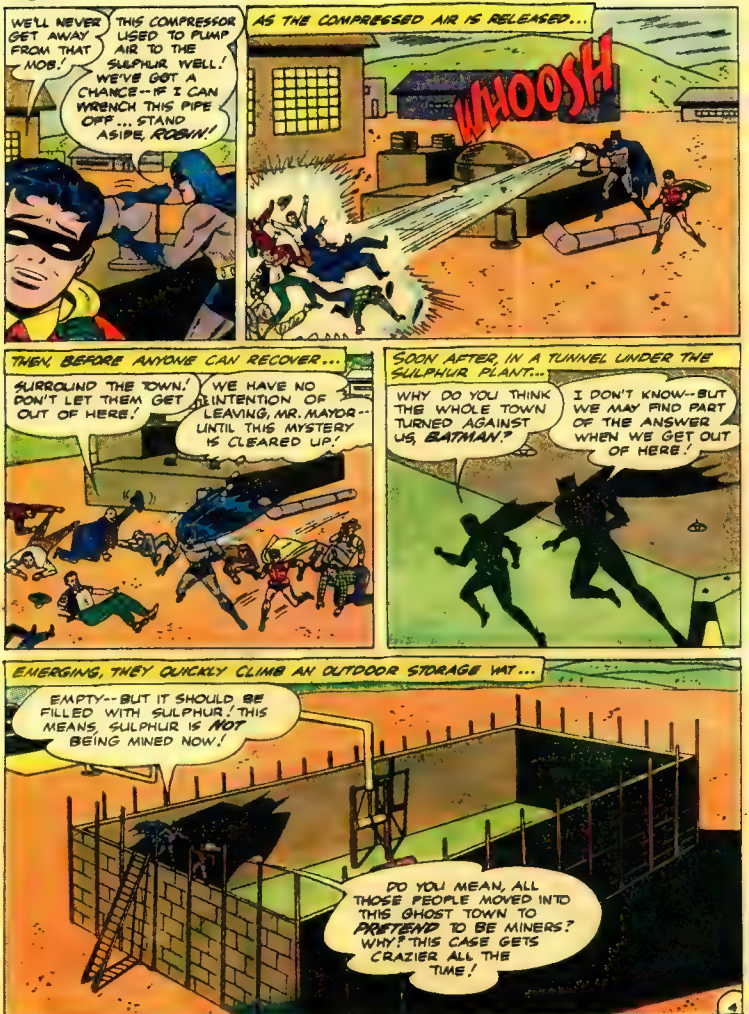

IMPLEMENTING THESE RIGHTS, THE U.N., THROUGH AGENCIES LIKE THE CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF), WORLD HEALTH AGENCY, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION, AND UNESCO, HAS BEEN ASSISTING COUNTRIES THAT HAVE APPLIED FOR HELP...
ONLY THEN WILL THE CHILD BE ABLE TO BE "BROUGHT UP IN A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE, FRIENDSHIP AMONG PEOPLES, PEACE AND UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD."

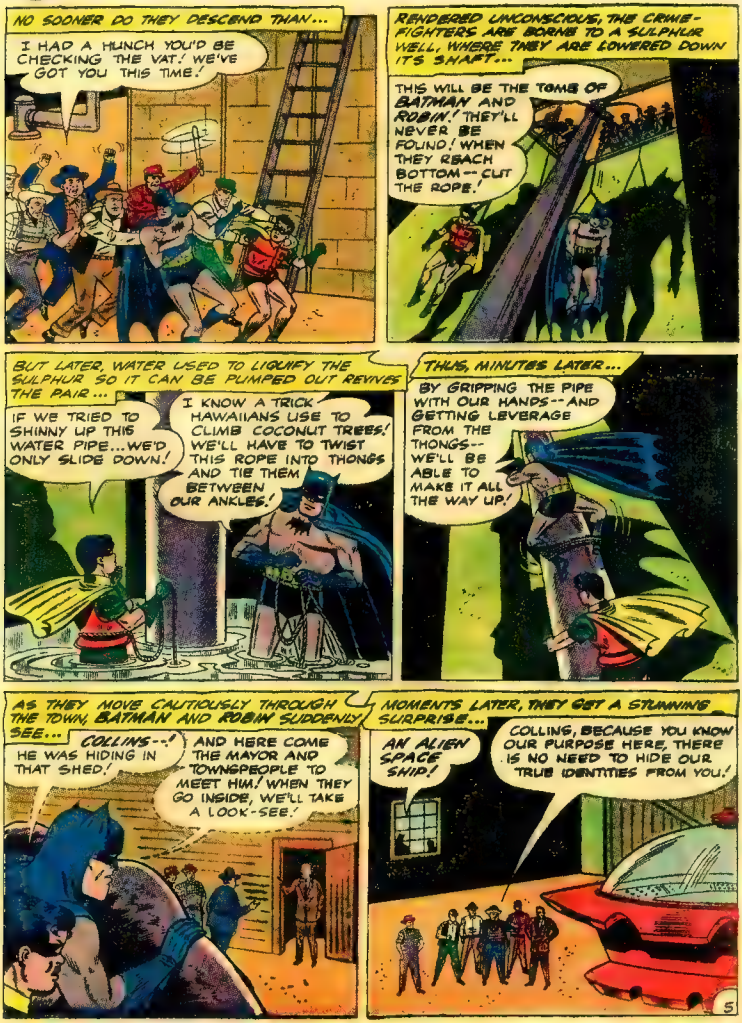
PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
WHEN THEY FIRST STRIDE INTO TOWN, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HAILED BY THE POPULACE! BUT, SUDDENLY, CHEERS TURN TO JEERS AS FANS TURN INTO FANATICS, DETERMINED TO DOOM THE DYNAMIC DUO! SHOULD THEY TRY TO FLEE OR REMAIN, AT THE RISK OF THEIR VERY LIVES, TO DISCOVER THE REASON BEHIND...
the TOWN that HATED BATMAN
BOB KANE
THERE THEY ARE -- BATMAN AND ROBIN!
GET THEM! RUN THEM OUT OF TOWN!
GREAT SCOTT! THE WHOLE TOWN HAS TURNED AGAINST US! WHY? WHY?


A FERRY IN GOTHAM BAY IS THE SCENE OF AN EXCITING INCIDENT ONE DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, DART INTO SUDDEN ACTION...
YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN! THAT IS BERT COLLINS, THE GANGSTER SOUGHT BY THE POLICE! I RECOGNIZE HIM FROM HIS ROGUES' GALLERY PHOTO THE POLICE GAVE US!
BUT...
HE DOVE OFF! WE MAY NEVER CATCH HIM NOW--WITH THE HEADSTART HE'S GOT ON US!
AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS PURSUE...
HE'S REACHED THE SHORE--WHERE HE HAD A GETAWAY CAR PARKED!
AS SOON AS WE GET TO LAND, WE'LL TAKE AFTER HIM IN OUR BATMOBILE!
NOT LONG AFTER, THEY FIND COLLINS' CAR--ABANDONED!
HMM! HE MUST HAVE RUN OUT OF GAS!
LUCKILY IT RAINED THIS MORNING--THE SOFT EARTH SHOWS HIS FOOTPRINTS CLEARLY! LET'S SEE WHERE THEY LEAD US...
SHORTLY...
THIS USED TO BE A GHOST TOWN--DESERTED WHEN THE SULPHUR MINE PETERED OUT AND COULDN'T SUPPLY WORK TO ANYONE!
WELL--A NEW SULPHUR VEIN MUST'VE BEEN DISCOVERED BECAUSE THE TOWN IS SURE BUSTLING AGAIN!
GOSH! BATMAN AND ROBIN! I'M GOING TO ASK THEM FOR THEIR AUTOGRAPHS!
I'M MAYOR COBB! SPEAKING FOR OUR LITTLE TOWN, WE'RE HONORED, BATMAN! YOU JUST PASSING BY HERE?
NO--WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CRIMINAL WHO MIGHT BE HIDING HERE! EVER SEE THIS MAN?
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
2

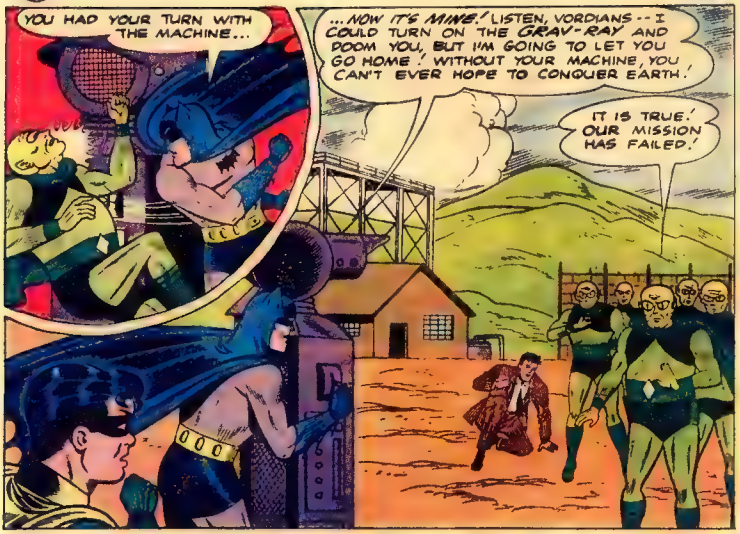

NOPE--AND NEITHER DID ANYONE ELSE, I CAN TELL YOU! A STRANGER WOULD BE NOTICED HERE! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S GO, ROBIN!
BUT AS THEY TURN TO LEAVE, BATMAN NOTES...
A STRAND OF SEA WEED! HOW COULD IT GET THIS FAR INLAND UNLESS, AS COLLINS SWAM IN THE BAY, IT CAUGHT ON HIS FOOT AND DROPPED OFF!
I'M SORRY TO DISAGREE WITH YOU, MAYOR COBB, BUT I HAVE A STRONG SUSPICION THAT COLLINS IS HERE! IF YOU WON'T HELP ME, I'M SURE THE PEOPLE WILL!
TAKE MY ADVICE AND LEAVE--NOW! WE DON'T LIKE OUTSIDERS SNOOPING AROUND!
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?
NO! WHY DON'T YOU GET OUT OF HERE, BATMAN, LIKE THE MAYOR SAYS, AND LEAVE US ALONE?
AND AS BATMAN PRESSES HIS MANHUNT, THE TOWN'S ONCE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE CHANGES TO OPEN HOSTILITY...
NEVER SAW HIM! QUIT BOTHERING US, AND LEAVE BATMAN! CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE?
THE MORE THEY REFUSE TO COOPERATE, THE MORE INTERESTED I BECOME! WHY SHOULD THESE RESPECTABLE PEOPLE PROTECT A CRIMINAL LIKE COLLINS? WHY DON'T THEY WANT US TO FIND HIM?
AS THE PUZZLED PAIR TURN A CORNER...
THERE THEY ARE! GET 'EM!
UH-OH! FIRST, THEY WANTED US TO LEAVE, ROBIN! NOW IT SEEMS THEY DON'T DARE LET US GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!


WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM THAT MOB!
THIS COMPRESSOR USED TO PUMP AIR TO THE SULPHUR WELL! WE'VE GOT A CHANCE--IF I CAN WRENCH THIS PIPE OFF... STAND ASIDE, ROBIN!
AS THE COMPRESSED AIR IS RELEASED...
WHOOSH
THEN, BEFORE ANYONE CAN RECOVER...
SURROUND THE TOWN! DON'T LET THEM GET OUT OF HERE!
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING, MR. MAYOR--UNTIL THIS MYSTERY IS CLEARED UP!
SOON AFTER, IN A TUNNEL UNDER THE SULPHUR PLANT...
WHY DO YOU THINK THE WHOLE TOWN TURNED AGAINST US, BATMAN?
I DON'T KNOW--BUT WE MAY FIND PART OF THE ANSWER WHEN WE GET OUT OF HERE!
EMERGING, THEY QUICKLY CLIMB AN OUTDOOR STORAGE VAT...
EMPTY--BUT IT SHOULD BE FILLED WITH SULPHUR! THIS MEANS SULPHUR IS NOT BEING MINED NOW!
DO YOU MEAN, ALL THOSE PEOPLE MOVED INTO THIS GHOST TOWN TO PRETEND TO BE MINERS? WHY? THIS CASE GETS CRAZIER ALL THE TIME!


NO SOONER DO THEY DESCEND THAN...
I HAD A HUNCH YOU'D BE CHECKING THE VAT! WE'VE GOT YOU THIS TIME!
RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE BORNE TO A SULPHUR WELL, WHERE THEY ARE LOWERED DOWN ITS SHAFT...
THIS WILL BE THE TOMB OF BATMAN AND ROBIN! THEY'LL NEVER BE FOUND! WHEN THEY REACH BOTTOM -- CUT THE ROPE!
BUT LATER, WATER USED TO LIQUIFY THE SULPHUR SO IT CAN BE PUMPED OUT REVIVES THE PAIR...
IF WE TRIED TO SHINNY UP THIS WATER PIPE...WE'D ONLY SLIDE DOWN!
I KNOW A TRICK HAWAIIANS USE TO CLIMB COCONUT TREES! WE'LL HAVE TO TWIST THIS ROPE INTO THONGS AND TIE THEM BETWEEN OUR ANKLES!
THUS, MINUTES LATER...
BY GRIPPING THE PIPE WITH OUR HANDS -- AND GETTING LEVERAGE FROM THE THONGS -- WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT ALL THE WAY UP!
AS THEY MOVE CAUTIOUSLY THROUGH THE TOWN, BATMAN AND ROBIN SUDDENLY SEE...
COLLINS --!
HE WAS HIDING IN THAT SHED!
AND HERE COME THE MAYOR AND TOWNSPEOPLE TO MEET HIM! WHEN THEY GO INSIDE, WE'LL TAKE A LOOK-SEE!
MOMENTS LATER, THEY GET A STUNNING SURPRISE...
AN ALIEN SPACE SHIP!
COLLINS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW OUR PURPOSE HERE, THERE IS NO NEED TO HIDE OUR TRUE IDENTITIES FROM YOU!

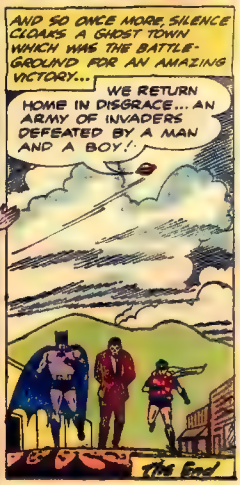
TAKING STRANGE DEVICES FROM THEIR POCKETS, THE PEOPLE SUDDENLY UNDERGO A FANTASTIC TRANSFORMATION!
WE'VE NOW RID OURSELVES OF OUR EARTHMEN DISGUISES!
NOT EVEN BATMAN COULD POSSIBLY GUESS YOU WERE ALIENS FROM ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM!
WITH A SINISTER SMILE, THE ALIEN WHIPS OFF A CLOTH, REVEALING--
OUR SECRET WEAPON -- THE GRAV-RAY! IT IS POWERED BY A PRECIOUS ELEMENT FOUND IN A METEOR ON VORDA--SINCE THE ELEMENT IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BUILD ANOTHER MACHINE AGAIN! LET ME DEMONSTRATE ITS POWER...
WE HOPED BATMAN WOULD LEAVE WITHOUT SUSPECTING YOU WERE HERE! WE DIDN'T WANT TO DESTROY HIM AT FIRST... BECAUSE HE WOULD BE MISSED...POLICE WOULD SEARCH FOR HIM...
AND YOU DIDN'T WANT THEM TO FIND OUT YOU WERE USING THIS TOWN AS A BASE FOR YOUR OPERATIONS! SO NOW WITH BATMAN DEAD, YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEED UP YOUR PLANS!
WE VORDIANS INTEND TO CONQUER EARTH--BUT WE WILL NEED LOYAL FOLLOWERS AFTERWARD! THAT IS WHY WE SAVED YOU FROM BATMAN--TO RECRUIT AN UNDERWORLD ARMY FOR US!
SURE--FOR A PRICE! BUT I'M NOT CONVINCED YOU CAN CONQUER EARTH!
OUTSIDE, THE ALIEN TAKES AIM AND...
IT MAGNIFIES THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF AN AREA THOUSANDS OF TIMES-- CAUSING STRUCTURES WITHIN ITS RANGE TO COLLAPSE INSTANTLY UNDER THE TERRIFIC STRAIN!
WOW! WITH THAT GADGET, YOU COULD DESTROY PLANES AND SHIPS...HOLD ARMIES AT BAY!
BATMAN, WE'VE GOT TO WRECK THAT MACHINE!
WE'D BE STOPPED BEFORE WE COULD GET NEAR IT! A WIND'S COMING UP--AND BLOWING IN THEIR DIRECTION! HMM...

MOMENTS LATER, THICK FUMES OF BURNING BRIMSTONE SWEEP AT THE INVADERS...
GASP!
COUGH COUGH!
...ALLOWING TWO CAPED FIGURES TO CHARGE UNSEEN THROUGH THE SMOKE SCREEN...
SETTING THE SULPHUR IN A BARREL AFIRE DID THE TRICK!
BUT, ABRUPTLY, AS THE WIND SHIFTS...
BATMAN AND ROBIN--ALIVE! SEIZE THEM!
WE GOT THIS FAR--MAYBE WE CAN GO ALL THE WAY!
GRASPING COLLINS, BATMAN LIFTS HIM HIGH...
COLLINS, YOU'RE A TRAITOR--BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME SAVE EARTH FROM INVASION...
...RIGHT NOW!


YOU HAD YOUR TURN WITH THE MACHINE...
...NOW IT'S MINE! LISTEN, VORDIANS -- I COULD TURN ON THE GRAV-RAY AND DOOM YOU, BUT I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO HOME WITHOUT YOUR MACHINE, YOU CAN'T EVER HOPE TO CONQUER EARTH!
IT IS TRUE! OUR MISSION HAS FAILED!

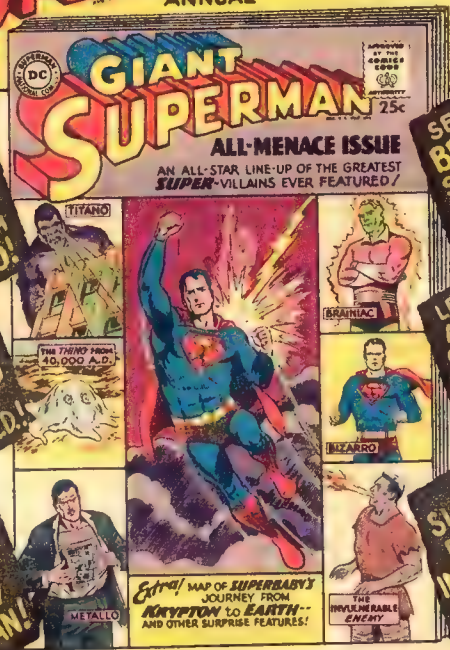
SOON AFTER, AS THE VORDIAN SHIP ROARS SKYWARD...
THIS ENDS THE THREAT TO EARTH!
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK...

WHOA! AFTER ALL WE WENT THROUGH TO GET YOU, DON'T EXPECT TO GET AWAY SO EASILY!


AND SO ONCE MORE, SILENCE CLOAKS A GHOST TOWN WHICH WAS THE BATTLE-GROUND FOR AN AMAZING VICTORY...
WE RETURN HOME IN DISGRACE... AN ARMY OF INVADERS DEFEATED BY A MAN AND A BOY!
The End

The NEXT GIANT SUPERMAN ANNUAL

WILL BE ANOTHER ***SELL-OUT!*** DON'T BE ***LEFT OUT.*** TO RESERVE YOUR COPY, FILL OUT THE ORDER BLANK BELOW AND RUSH TO YOUR LOCAL DEALER!



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE: ALL RESERVATIONS VOID IF NOT CLAIMED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

Dear Editor: When the BATMOBILE or BAT-PLANE get wrecked, how are BATMAN and ROBIN able to replace them so fast?

Brian White, Edmonton, Alberta, B. C.

(Very simple. BATMAN and ROBIN have duplicates of their vehicles. Moreover, the BAT-CAVE is stocked with all the parts needed for quick repair or replacement. —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I understand BATMAN once got the goods on a counterfeiting gang with a MAGNETIC BATARANG. Is this true? If so, how does that BATARANG operate?

Gene Tasby, Milwaukee, Wis.

(The MAGNETIC BATARANG, built out of magnetic metal, of course, can pick up the same metals as ordinary magnets. Properly aimed, it can snatch whatever metallic evidence BATMAN is seeking, and bring it back to him. In the case you mentioned, BATMAN and ROBIN needed the counterfeiters' plates, which the gang could have easily destroyed, had they seen the crime-fighters coming.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: In a recent story, BATMAN was in a situation where his life was slowly ebbing away, and there seemed to be nothing he could do about it. Everyone, I'm sure, enjoyed that one, and I was wondering if BATWOMAN has ever been in the same sort of predicament.

Celia Leslie, Passaic, N. J.

(She certainly has—and you can read all about it in the DECEMBER issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 286, featuring the story of "THE DOOMED BATWOMAN."—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: You've shown BATMAN and ROBIN fighting crime all over the world. How are they able to converse with people in foreign countries? *Jim Wall, Dover, Del.*

(BATMAN and ROBIN are familiar with all the major languages of the world.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: A friend of mine told me that ROBIN once took some strands of hair left at the scene of a crime, analyzed them, and deduced that the criminal had worn a toupee. How is that possible? Aren't toupees made of human hair? *Simon Kantor, Galveston, Tex.*

(Toupee hairs contain tiny knots at their ends, where they were attached to the base of the toupee—and that's what ROBIN noticed when he made his deduction.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: How about a story where BATMAN and ROBIN acquire super-powers, while SUPERMAN loses his powers?

Jed Snavely, Watertown, N. Y.

(Loads of readers have made the same request, so we'll be giving it to you in the DECEMBER WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, No. 114, in the adventure entitled, "CAPTIVES OF THE SPACE GLOBES." —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Why, exactly, did BATMAN choose the bat as his crime-fighting symbol?

Saul Pepper, Providence, R. I.

(Criminals are very superstitious, and BATMAN wanted a symbol that would strike fear into their hearts. The bat-symbol was the perfect choice, because the bat is considered an omen of bad luck by the underworld.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Is it true that BATMAN once spotted some phony jewelry, which a criminal was trying to pass off, because the gems were too perfect? *Lydia Sanford, Tacoma, Wash.*

(It's true, Lydia. Genuine gems have tiny flaws in them, acquired during their growth process. The sure sign of synthetic jewelry is the absence of any flaws.—Ed.)

* * *

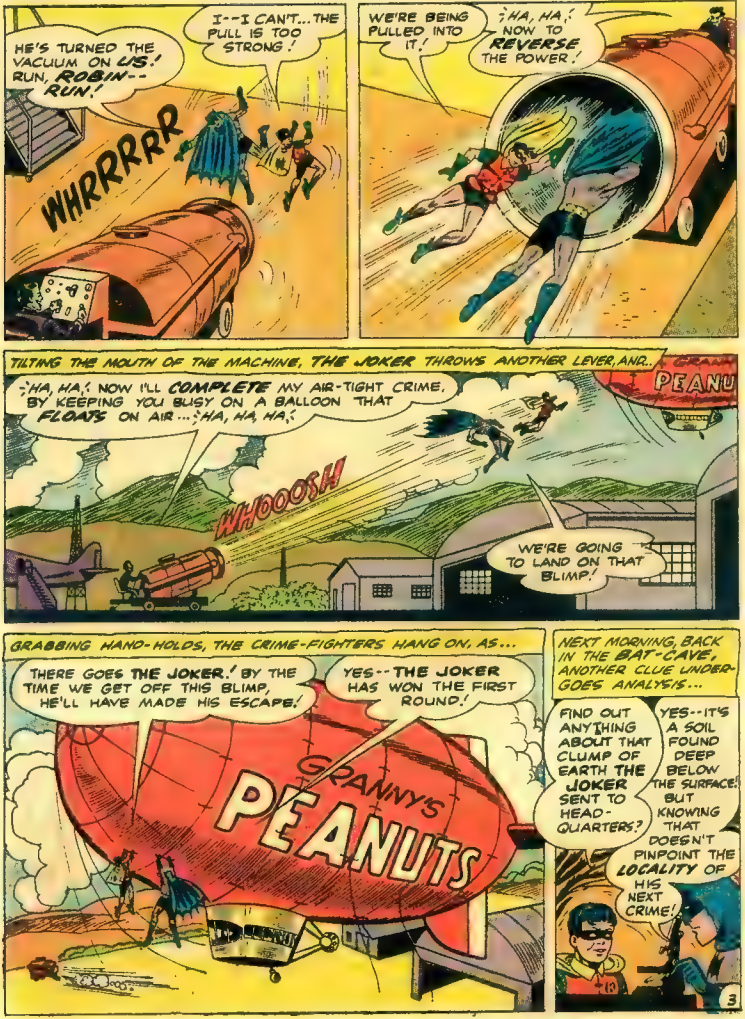
Dear Editor: Has ROBIN ever quit BATMAN and joined forces with another crime-fighting partner? *Irving Asch, Waterbury, Conn.*

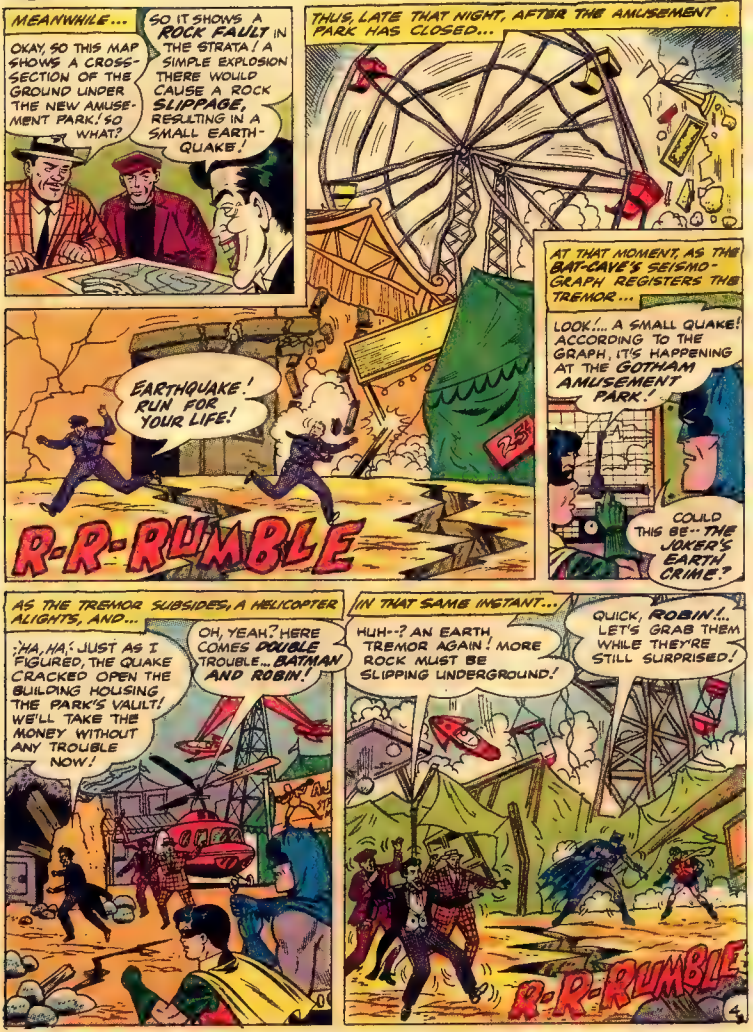
(He sure has, as you'll see for yourself in the next issue of BATMAN COMICS—FEBRUARY, No. 137—featuring an amazing new crime-fighter who becomes "ROBIN'S NEW BOSS."—Ed.)

WARDEN WILLIS
THE SAFE WON'T OPEN. BETTER CALL IN A LOCKSMITH!
WHY SPEND MONEY FOR THAT, WARDEN? WE HAVE AN INMATE HERE WHO'S AN ACE SAFECRACKER!
HMM, BRING HIM IN.
AND...
HERE HE IS, WARDEN. I EXPLAINED WHAT YOU WANT DONE!
THAT'S FUNNY. I CAN'T SEEM TO OPEN IT. NO WONDER --I'LL COME BACK TONIGHT!
AH, THAT'S IT! IT'LL OPEN IN A SECOND. YOU SEE, I'M USED TO WORKING ONLY AT NIGHT!

BATMAN
ROBIN
OF ALL THE CRIMINALS BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE FACED, NONE IS MORE CONCEITED THAN THAT CRIME CLOWN--THE JOKER! NOW, ONCE AGAIN, THE JAUNTY JESTER MOCKS BATMAN, AND BRAZENLY REVEALS HIS PLANS FOR FOUR FANTASTIC CRIMES! WHAT HAPPENS, THEN, IS REVEALED WHEN THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS MEET...
THE CHALLENGE OF THE JOKER
CRACK
GREAT SCOTT! THE EARTHQUAKE THE JOKER MADE HAS OPENED A CREVICE IN THE GROUND--RIGHT BENEATH ROBIN!
BOB KANE

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF GOTHAM CITY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT, BATMAN MAKES A TV BROADCAST...
IN OLDEN DAYS, PEOPLE BELIEVED THERE WERE ONLY FOUR ELEMENTS... AIR--EARTH--FIRE--AND WATER! SCIENCE TODAY HAS PROVED DIFFERENTLY!
WBTV
IN HIS HIDEOUT, THE JOKER LISTENS AND GROWS ANGRIER WITH EACH WORD...
TODAY, SCIENCE HAS ALSO MADE OLD-STYLE POLICE METHODS OUTMODED! NO CRIMINAL CAN HOPE TO OUTWIT THE SCIENTIFIC POLICEMAN FOR LONG!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, EH, BATMAN? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WRONG YOU ARE!
NEXT DAY, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
BAD NEWS... THE JOKER IS CHALLENGING YOU TO ANOTHER DUEL OF WITS, BATMAN! HIS NOTE SAYS THAT HE INTENDS TO DISPROVE YOUR TV BROADCAST, BY USING THE OLD FOUR "ELEMENTS" FOR CRIME!
AND THIS EMPTY BOTTLE WAS WITH HIS MESSAGE, EH? NO DOUBT IT REFERS TO THE FIRST ELEMENT I MENTIONED... AIR!
LATER, IN THE CRIME LAB OF THE SECRET BAT-CAVE...
IT'S OBVIOUS, ROBIN, THAT SINCE HE'S CHALLENGING OUR LAB SCIENCE, THE AIR IN THIS BOTTLE MUST CONTAIN A CLUE THAT CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT OUT BY ANALYSIS...
SURE ENOUGH, AFTER A SERIES OF TESTS...
THE AIR IN THIS BOTTLE CONTAINS PARTICLES OF BURNED KEROSENE--THE KIND OF CRUDE, CHEAP FUEL BURNED IN JET PLANES! THE JOKER'S AIR CRIME IS PROBABLY TO ROB THE AIRMAIL OF AN AIRPLANE...
...AT THE AIRFIELD! LET'S GO!
SWIFTLY, THE BATMOBILE RACES TO THE AIRPORT, WHERE...
HOLY SMOKE! THE JOKER'S GOT A GADGET THAT'S SUCKING UP ALL THE MAIL!
YES--A CRIMINAL AIR GIMMICK... A GIGANTIC "VACUUM CLEANER!"
WHRRRR-RRRRR
2

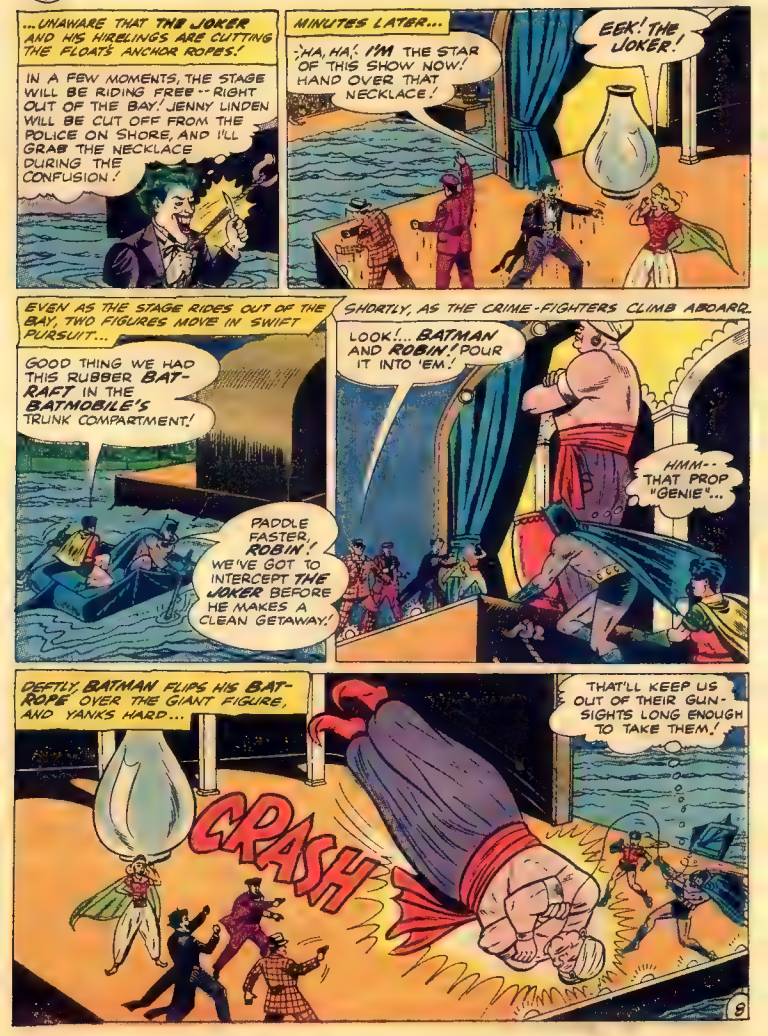

HE'S TURNED THE VACUUM ON US! RUN, ROBIN--RUN!
I--I CAN'T... THE PULL IS TOO STRONG!
WHRRRR
WE'RE BEING PULLED INTO IT!
;HA, HA! NOW TO REVERSE THE POWER!
TILTING THE MOUTH OF THE MACHINE, THE JOKER THROWS ANOTHER LEVER, AND..
;HA, HA! NOW I'LL COMPLETE MY AIR-TIGHT CRIME, BY KEEPING YOU BUSY ON A BALLOON THAT FLOATS ON AIR... ;HA, HA, HA!
WHOOOSH
WE'RE GOING TO LAND ON THAT BLIMP!
GRABBING HAND-HOLDS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS HANG ON, AS...
THERE GOES THE JOKER! BY THE TIME WE GET OFF THIS BLIMP, HE'LL HAVE MADE HIS ESCAPE!
YES--THE JOKER HAS WON THE FIRST ROUND!
GRANNY'S PEANUTS
NEXT MORNING, BACK IN THE BAT-CAVE, ANOTHER CLUE UNDERGOES ANALYSIS...
FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CLUMP OF EARTH THE JOKER SENT TO HEADQUARTERS?
YES--IT'S A SOIL FOUND DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE! BUT KNOWING THAT DOESN'T PINPOINT THE LOCALITY OF HIS NEXT CRIME!

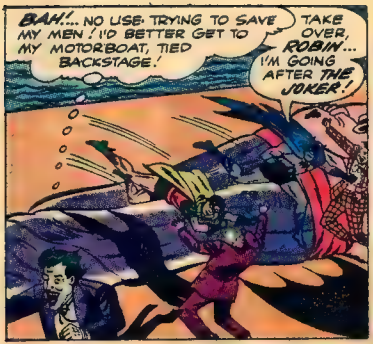

MEANWHILE...
OKAY, SO THIS MAP SHOWS A CROSS-SECTION OF THE GROUND UNDER THE NEW AMUSEMENT PARK! SO WHAT?
SO IT SHOWS A ROCK FAULT IN THE STRATA! A SIMPLE EXPLOSION THERE WOULD CAUSE A ROCK SLIPPAGE, RESULTING IN A SMALL EARTHQUAKE!
THUS, LATE THAT NIGHT, AFTER THE AMUSEMENT PARK HAS CLOSED...
AT THAT MOMENT, AS THE BAT-CAVE'S SEISMOGRAPH REGISTERS THE TREMOR...
LOOK!... A SMALL QUAKE! ACCORDING TO THE GRAPH, IT'S HAPPENING AT THE GOTHAM AMUSEMENT PARK!
COULD THIS BE-- THE JOKER'S EARTH CRIME?
EARTHQUAKE! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
R-R-RUMBLE
AS THE TREMOR SUBSIDES, A HELICOPTER ALIGHTS, AND...
HA, HA! JUST AS I FIGURED, THE QUAKE CRACKED OPEN THE BUILDING HOUSING THE PARK'S VAULT! WE'LL TAKE THE MONEY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE NOW!
OH, YEAH? HERE COMES DOUBLE TROUBLE... BATMAN AND ROBIN!
IN THAT SAME INSTANT...
HUH--? AN EARTH TREMOR AGAIN! MORE ROCK MUST BE SLIPPING UNDERGROUND!
QUICK, ROBIN!.. LET'S GRAB THEM WHILE THEY'RE STILL SURPRISED!
R-R-RUMBLE

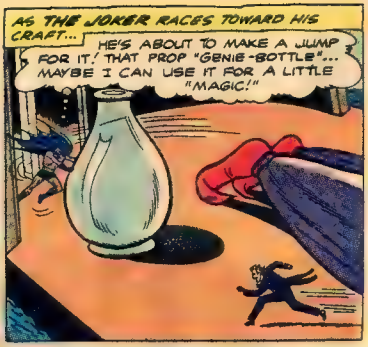
AMID TOPPLING STRUCTURES, A FANTASTIC BATTLE ENSUES...
MUST WRAP THIS UP FAST... GET THEM OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE'RE ALL TRAPPED!
BUT SUDDENLY...
UHHH... BATMAN.. HELP ME!
GREAT SCOTT! A CREVICE OPENED UP RIGHT UNDER ROBIN!
INSTANTLY, BATMAN HURTLES FORWARD...
WHEW! IF HE'D TOPPLED INTO THE CRACK, JUST AS IT CLOSED...!
CRUNCH!
AS THEY GET TO THEIR FEET...
SO LONG, BATMAN! SEE YOU AT MY NEXT CRIME... HA, HA, HA!
THERE GOES THE JOKER-- BUT THIS TIME WITHOUT ANY LOOT! SO FAR, OUR BATTLE IS EVEN SCORE!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, AFTER PICKING UP THE THIRD CLUE...
WELL, BATMAN-- WHAT ABOUT THE POWDER CLUE THE JOKER SENT YOU?
IT'S AN EXPLOSIVE POWDER, ROBIN-- AND CONTAINS INGREDIENTS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FIREWORKS!

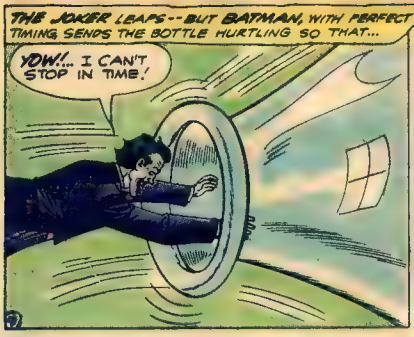
SOME TIME LATER...
SO YOU THINK HIS FIRE CRIME WILL BE TO ROB THE PAYROLL OF THE GOTHAM FIREWORKS PLANT!
COULD BE! WE'LL LEAVE THE BAT-MOBILE PARKED HERE, AND SNEAK UP ON THE PLANT! MAYBE WE'LL TAKE THE JOKER BY SURPRISE!
BUT JUST THEN, ZOOMING DOWN FROM THE SKIES...
HA, HA,
THE JOKER!.. ON SOME KIND OF SKY-SLED!
GREAT, SCOTT!... HE'S SHOOTING FIREBALLS AT US!
THEY'RE BURSTING OPEN ALL AROUND US!
SWIFTLY, A RING OF FIRE ENTRAPS THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS!
WE CAN'T DASH THROUGH THE FIRE-RING... IT'S TOO THICK!
EXACTLY, BATMAN... HA, HA, HA, AND CHEMICALS FROM YOUR UTILITY BELTS WON'T SNUFF OUT THOSE FLAMES! THE RING WILL IMPRISON YOU UNTIL I COMPLETE MY WATER CRIME -- BY STEALING THE FAMOUS LINDEN NECKLACE!
TENSE MINUTES ELAPSE, AS THE FIRE BURNS FIERCELY AROUND BATMAN AND ROBIN...
BY THE TIME THESE FLAMES DIE DOWN, THE JOKER WILL HAVE COMPLETED HIS WATER CRIME!
WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE! ROBIN-- LET'S SEE HOW GOOD AN ACROBAT YOU ARE!

MOMENTS LATER, ASSISTED BY BATMAN, THE BOY WONDER BACK-FLIPS HIGH OVER THE WALL OF FLAME!
I'M OVER!
ALLEY... OOP!
AND HASTILY, ROBIN COMPLETES THE REST OF BATMAN'S PLAN...
OKAY--HOP IN! THE BATMOBILE WILL PROTECT US FROM THE FLAMES!
NICE WORK... NOW LET'S GET TO THE AQUA-STAGE!
THE AQUA-STAGE?... WHERE THE AUDIENCE SITS ON LAND AND WATCHES A SHOW DONE ON A FLOATING STAGE ANCHORED IN GOTHAM BAY?
RIGHT... AND TODAY, JENNY LINDEN IS WEARING HER FAMOUS NECKLACE WHILE SHE SINGS THE STARRING ROLE IN THE MUSICAL COMEDY, "THE ARABIAN KNIGHTS"!
ELSEWHERE, AT GOTHAM BAY, THE AUDIENCE LISTENS TO JENNY LINDEN ON THE UNIQUE STAGE...


...UNAWARE THAT THE JOKER AND HIS HIRELINGS ARE CUTTING THE FLOATS' ANCHOR ROPES!
IN A FEW MOMENTS, THE STAGE WILL BE RIDING FREE -- RIGHT OUT OF THE BAY! JENNY LINDEN WILL BE CUT OFF FROM THE POLICE ON SHORE, AND I'LL GRAB THE NECKLACE DURING THE CONFUSION!
MINUTES LATER...
HA, HA! I'M THE STAR OF THIS SHOW NOW! HAND OVER THAT NECKLACE!
EEK! THE JOKER!
EVEN AS THE STAGE RIDES OUT OF THE BAY, TWO FIGURES MOVE IN SWIFT PURSUIT...
GOOD THING WE HAD THIS RUBBER BAT-RAFT IN THE BATMOBILE'S TRUNK COMPARTMENT!
PADDLE FASTER, ROBIN! WE'VE GOT TO INTERCEPT THE JOKER BEFORE HE MAKES A CLEAN GETAWAY!
SHORTLY, AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CLIMB ABOARD...
LOOK!... BATMAN AND ROBIN! POUR IT INTO 'EM!
HMM-- THAT PROP "GENIE"...
DEFTLY, BATMAN FLIPS HIS BAT-ROPE OVER THE GIANT FIGURE, AND YANKS HARD...
CRASH
THAT'LL KEEP US OUT OF THEIR GUN-SIGHTS LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE THEM!




AS THE JOKER RACES TOWARD HIS CRAFT...
HE'S ABOUT TO MAKE A JUMP FOR IT! THAT PROP "GENIE-BOTTLE"... MAYBE I CAN USE IT FOR A LITTLE "MAGIC!"



AND SO, AFTER UPENDING THE BOTTLE AND RAMMING A CORK INTO PLACE...
WELL... AT LAST, THE JOKER IS BOTTLED UP COMPLETELY!
YES--BECAUSE HE FORGOT THE "FIFTH ELEMENT"... THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!
THE END

MECHANICAL MONSTERS ON THE LOOSE!

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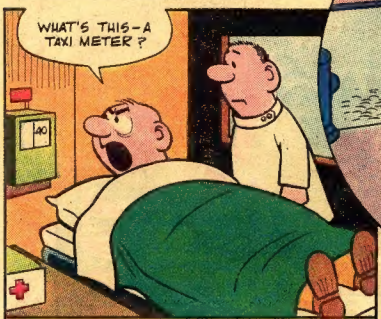
Cave Carson
INSIDE EARTH
IT'S CAVE--ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED BY ONE OF THE ALIEN ROBOTS!
The ALIEN ROBOTS of INNER SPACE!
IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF
The BRAVE and the BOLD

STRANGE Old LAWS



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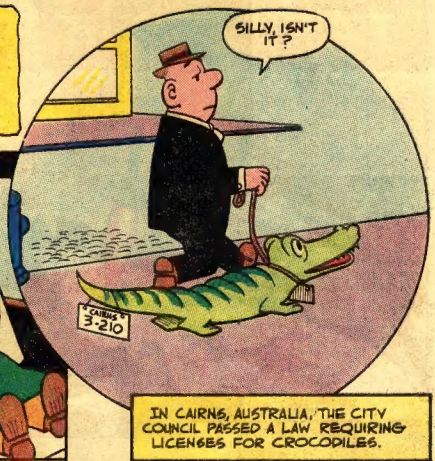

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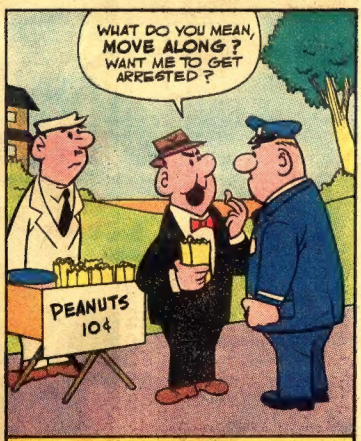

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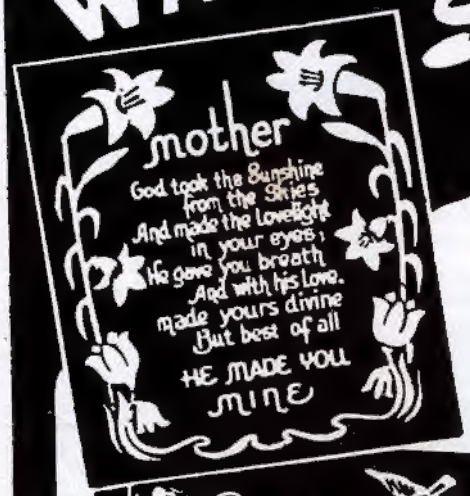

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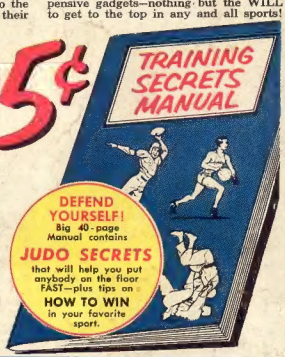
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